said about the grievances of the holders of English School Leaving Certificates with the endorsement "Eligible", but not qualified for public service in the State, and requested that their case might be sympathetically considered by the Government. The Member finally complained about the working of the Poramboke Rules.

Dewan's reply.—You say that a knowledge of survey is necessary for the ryot to see whether a piece of land classed as an encroachment by the Survey officers is really one. Such a knowledge cannot be acquired by an elementary study of survey in Classes III to VII of Vernacular schools. In this country of hills and valleys, no survey can be accurate or even approximate without the use of the theodolite, and the use of the theodolite involves a knowledge of trigonometry. A useful knowledge of survey cannot be had from schools intended for imparting general education. If any particular boy wishes to have a knowledge of survey, there are survey schools conducted in Kottayam and Trivandrum and he can attend either of them.

As regards Poramboke Rules, I have already given my reply and I need not repeat it.

In regard to English School Leaving Certificates, I have already given my reply to Mr. Mamman Mappillai. The matter will engage the attention of Government.

119. Desirability of cancelling the recent orders of Government enhancing school fees in the State.

Mr. P. Padmanabha Pillai B. A., B. L. (Member, Municipal Council, Trivandrum) represented that the contemplated enhancement of fees in classes V, VI and VII of vernacular schools from *chackrams* 14, 16 and 18 respectively to *chackrams* 21, 24 and 27 and in the Preparatory class and Forms III to VI of English Schools from Rs. 12 and Rs. 36 to Rs. 18 and Rs. 42 respectively would work considerable hardship on the people, both rich and poor, in the present economic condition of the country. According to the Government Communiqué dated the 17th September 1921, the Government order enhancing the school fees appeared to have been passed on the recommendations of the Education Expenditure Committee, the Headmasters' Conference, and the Special Educational Conference held in April 1921. The Conferences could not be considered as really voicing the opinion of a disinterested non-official body. The Headmasters were a class of persons deeply interested in the enhancement of fees for their personal benefit, while the special Educational Conference was domineered by the official element and the bulk of the non-official element consisted of persons connected with grant-in-aid schools, highly interested in the enhancement of fees, there being only two disinterested non-officials. A perusal of the proceedings of the latter Conference would show that the officials and school managers had already made up their minds to enhance the rates of fees and were vying with each other in increasing the educational burden of the people. The Director of Public Instruction recommended the levy of a fee of 2 As. and 4 As. in classes III and IV of Primary schools and Rs. 2 in the Preparatory class, and a Secretary of the Huzur Office recommended an entrance fee in schools. On the other hand, the Education Expenditure Committee consisted of a representative and responsible body of high officials and non-officials and this Committee after mature consideration of the various aspects of the question of educational expenditure never recommended an increase in the rates of fees obtaining in the various grades of educational institutions. In support of his contention, the Member referred to paragraphs 51, 57, 90 and 99 of the Report of the Educational Expenditure Committee relating to the levy of fees. In paragraph 51, in the case of Primary education, the Committee said that the levy of a small fee would no doubt give considerable relief to Government and would enable them to set apart more funds for the extension of education. They, however, considered that, both on principle and from expediency, it would be a retrograde step if fees were re-levied in those schools. Again, in paragraph 57 of the report, the Committee stated that it might be possible to increase the fees a little in Vernacular Middle School classes, but that, since education in those classses was generally meant for the poor and as the fees had been

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raised only recently, they did not recommend a further increase of the rates at present. In respect of Vernacular Middle Schools for girls, the Committee said that the free education imparted in them might be continued. In paragraph 90 of the report relating to colleges, the Committee stated that the fees, though less than in the Presidency College and the Christian College, Madras, were substantially high and that a further enhancement, while not materially improving the financial position, would be imposing an additional burden on the people. It would be seen from the above that the Committee did not recommend an enhancement of fees. Again, in paragraph 99 of the report, they stated that fees levied in the Training College did not admit of enhancement. The Member then remarked that, if the well-thought out recommendations of the Committee had been accepted and worked out, there would have been a saving of two lakhs of rupees to Government every year, as against the one lakh which was hoped to be realised by the enhancement of fees and that not only had this not been done, but the Committee's report was misread and misquoted by the authorities and wrongly relied on for enhancing the fees. Para 3 of the Press Communiqué dated the 17th September 1921 especially was misleading and vague. The Member, therefore, stated that the considered and mature views of the Education Expenditure Committee were of no help to Government as a basis for their argument in favour of enhancement of school fees. The Member did not accept the argument for the enhancement of school fees based on a comparison between Travancore and Cochin, as Travancore was far ahead of Cochin in most matters.

Turning to the economic condition of the people, the Member said that they were comparatively poor, that the average earning capacity of an individual citizen of the State was far below that of British India, Mysore, Baroda, etc., and that the condition of the general body of parents, who were agriculturists, was not satisfactory enough to admit of fees being enhanced.

The Member stated that the opinion of the people was not invited on the Government order enhancing school fees and that the enforcement of the order would surely retard the progress of education in the State, which was far ahead of the other South Indian States at present. The fact that nearly 16 per cent of the total revenue was spent on education was no argument for enhancing school fees. The Expenditure Committee's recommendation regarding retrenchment might be adopted and savings effected and more income might be raised by taxing those who could really afford to pay.

The Member then referred to the students' strike and the unhappy incidents which took place in the College compound on the 5th Kanni 1097, which, according to him, were a direct consequence of the enhancement of school fees. As one of those who went to the scene of occurrence immediately after the incident, he asserted that deliberate acts of vandalism had been perpetrated on the helpless students, even granting for argument's sake that the crowd of students had to be dispersed in self-defence by the Police and the Bodyguard. Government should have shown more consideration to the non-official communiqué issued and the resolutions passed relating to the above incidents by several responsible citizens. The insinuation cast on the vernacular press and on some unknown body of mischief-makers was not substantiated and made clear. He referred to the passage in the Dewan's opening address to the Assembly stating that "Both Government and their responsible officers have ever been and still are most anxious to visit with condign punishment every such case of excess in the event of its being properly proved" and said that it was for this very purpose of proof that they still persisted in the demand for the appointment of a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials to enquire into the events of the fateful day.

In concluding, the Member said that the effect of the enhancement of school fees would be to frustrate the object of Government regarding the spread of English education, by rendering it beyond the means of the masses to pay the enhanced rates of fees. For the above reasons, he requested the cancellation of the G. O. enhancing school fees.

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Dewan's reply.—You have referred to the portion of my address in which I said that, if the guardians of the students made representations, those representations could certainly be considered in regard to the grievances they had in the matter of the enhancement of school fees. I take it that you are one such, and I may tell you that the representations that you have now made will be very carefully considered by Government. That is my reply to your representation, so far as the enhancement of school fees is concerned.

In the course of your speech you have made certain remarks contesting the correctness of the Press Communiquê of September 1921. Without a careful study of the papers, you cannot expect me to reply to those remarks. I must, therefore, reserve my reply for a future occasion.

In regard to the unfortunate students' strikes and your remarks about them, I have already made a statement to the members of the Assembly and I do not propose to say anything more about them now.

Mr. Hodgson wishes me to say that the suggestions to levy a small fee in classes III and IV of the Primary Schools did not actually emanate from him, and that it was not his desire that such fee should be levied. He says that he only led the discussion of the question of levying the fee and brought it up before the members of the Conference for their consideration.

All that you have said about the Education Committees' reports will receive my careful consideration.

120. Education of Malayala Brahmins.

Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar (Member, Jenmi, Padmanabhapuram Division) said that there was a wrong notion among the general public that the Malayala Brahmins formed a well-to-do community. The Education Expenditure Committee also seemed to have shared that misunderstanding as was evidenced by their report. Had there been a member of the Malayala Brahmin community also on the committee, he would have given a correct idea of the economically backward condition of the community and thus cleared the misunderstanding. He requested that, in all committees and conferences dealing with the education of Malayala Brahmins, one from that community might be nominated as a Member. One other misconception prevalent among the public was that Government were incurring additional expenditure for the education of the Malayala Brahmins by conducting a special school for them at Mannadi. As a matter of fact no expenditure relating to that school had so far been met from the State funds. The amounts spent for the special school came from the endowments made for the school by private persons. The only noteworthy feature about it was that the proceeds of the endowments were not properly realised and consequently the money actually spent on the school was not adequate for the purpose. The Member pointed out that there were several trust funds and properties belonging to his community which had been set apart for their benefit, especially in matters educational, and that some of them were either taken over by Government or were in the hands of other people. He requested that a Committee or a Government officer might be immediately appointed to enquire into the existence and nature of such funds and properties and promised the necessary assistance from the community in the enquiry. He also suggested the desirability of framing a law for the protection of these charity funds and added that the Cochin Government was taking some definite action in the matter.

Lastly, the Member prayed that adequate encouragement might be given to the few members of his community who were qualified for public service and also for the few others who were already in the service.

Dewan's reply.—I am sorry that I did not understand your view-point last year. I now understand you to say that there are sufficient funds which originally belonged to your community for the education of the pupils thereof and which you

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